

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document submitted January 14, 2002.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 14, 2002.

Status of the Application

Claims 2-12 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 11 and 12 are hereby added to more fully define the current invention, and as claim 1 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-10 have been rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-10 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant hereby rewrites claim 2 in independent form (claims 3-12 depend from claim 2). Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-12 are immediately allowable.

Indefiniteness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiramoto et al. (US 5,338,219; hereinafter "Hiramoto"). As claim 1 has been cancelled, this rejection is believed to be moot.

New Claims

Claims 11 and 12 are hereby added. Claims 11 and 12 are fully supported *at least* by FIG. 1 of the instant Application. Claims 11 and 12 are respectfully submitted to be allowable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-12 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 2-12.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/043,110

Attorney Docket # Q68048

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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